

## Faith in Five Protection of the Unborn



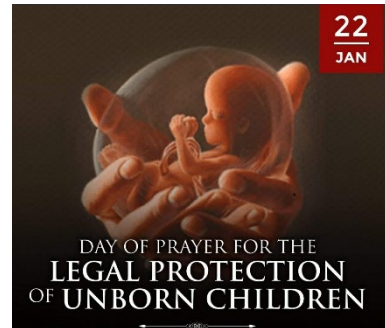
1. "Throwaway culture" is a term referring to a social concept where human consumerism and consumption favor items to be used once only, not designed for a lifetime or reuse. [Pope Frances further defines](#) it as **"Human life, the person, are no longer seen as a primary value to be respected and safeguarded."**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC, 2271) states that "... abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law". "Given the *scientific* fact that a human life begins at conception, the only moral norm needed to understand the Church's opposition to abortion is the principle that *each and every human life has inherent dignity, and thus must be treated with the respect due to a human person*" ([Source](#)).

2. **There is forgiveness:** The Catechism of the Catholic Church (982) states, "There is no offense, however serious, that the Church cannot forgive. There is no one, however wicked and guilty, who may not confidently hope for forgiveness, provided his repentance is honest. Christ who died for all men desires that in his Church the gates of forgiveness should always be open to anyone who turns away from sin".
3. Scriptures to consider:
  - a. **Exodus 20:13** – "Thou shalt not murder".  
God is the giver of all life, and we are to respect all that He created. The unborn are defenseless, innocent beings and do not come into this world as formal aggressors.
  - b. **Jeremiah 1:5** - "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you..."  
According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (27), "For if man exists, it is because God has created him through love". [Fr. Mike Schmitz in his podcast, Catechism in a Year](#) further explains, "God loves you - We didn't have to exist, but God loved us to existence. He wants us to exist. While God loves us, he loves everybody infinitely uniquely and infinitely on purpose. He intimately and purposefully made YOU. God never ceases to call us to Him".
  - c. **Psalms 139: 13, 14** - "For You formed my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made".  
There is no one else like you. God made you to be special, distinguished, and unique.
  - d. **2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14** – "So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake; but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God".  
Our Catholic beliefs may be contrary to the world around us but let us be bold in our faith to defend the unborn! Let us also reach out to those who have suffered painfully because of abortion, with mercy and understanding.

4. In the holy Scriptures, we know God created light, the sky, land and plants; the sun, moon and stars; water, animals and finally Man. God gave responsibility for care of everything in creation as well as care of each other to Man. God created us for a reason; we have a responsibility to respect every facet of life and especially other human beings, whose dignity is foremost in God's heart.
5. **Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn** - The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children": "In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion".

Each January 22 our nation marks the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court case which legalized abortion. More than 56 million children's lives have been lost to abortion, and many suffer that loss.



6. **Project Rachel** is a ministry of the Catholic Church in the U.S. to those who have been directly or indirectly involved in an abortion. It is a diocesan-based network of specially trained priests, religious, counselors, and laypersons who provide a team response of care for those suffering in the aftermath of abortion. In addition to referring for Sacramental Reconciliation, the ministry provides an integrated network of services, including pastoral counseling, support groups, retreats and referrals to licensed mental health professionals. It is open to all . . . people of all faiths or no faith. ([USCCB](#))
7. We can learn to cultivate the culture of encounter as Pope Francis suggests countering the throwaway culture. Each person must be seen as whole, dignified and valued. When we can see and accept one another as brother and sister, we can see them not as burdens but created for God's love and purpose. [As Pope Francis notes](#), our "care for one another is care for Jesus himself."

God our Creator, we give thanks to you, who alone have the power to impart the breath of life as you form each of us in our mother's womb; Grant, we pray, that we, whom you have made stewards of creation, may remain faithful to this sacred trust and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human life.

~Collect for today's Mass

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